

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the withdrawal of the final rejection of the pending claims. With entry of this amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-3 and 5 and adds claims 7-12. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being met by Kew et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,063,994) (hereinafter “Kew”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Kew is directed to a simulated string instrument using a keyboard. A simulated guitar is implemented on a personal computer where standard personal computer keyboard keys are mapped to guitar controls so that the performer can hold and manipulate the keyboard in the manner of a real guitar (see col. 2, lines 36-41). Fig. 1A depicts a personal computer 10 with left and right speakers 14 and 16, a keyboard 18 and a mouse 20. As illustrated in Fig. 2A, a performer 200 holds the keyboard 18 as if it were a guitar. The depression of the keyboard keys constitutes real-time performance input to the computer 10 for generating sounds.

In contrast, the present invention, as set forth in amended claims 1-3 and 5, has two connection interfaces: a first connection interface for use as a MIDI interface and a second connection interface for connecting a keyboard originally designed for use in a computer to the electronic musical instrument. Kew does not disclose the first and second connection interfaces as set forth in the amended claims. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 5 and their respective dependent claims are not anticipated by Kew.

Applicants have added claims 7-12 which recite “a dedicated electronic musical instrument having a control section”. Because Kew simply discloses a personal computer as opposed to “a dedicated electronic musical instrument having a control section”, it is respectfully submitted that Kew does not anticipate the added claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that it would advance

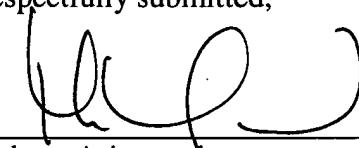
the prosecution of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032012500.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

1. (Twice Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
at least one connection terminal for connection with a keyboard originally designed for
use in a computer;

a first connection interface for use as a MIDI interface; and
a second connection interface for connecting said keyboard directly to said electronic
musical instrument.

2. (Twice Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
an operation panel that is operated by a user;
at least one connection terminal for connection with a keyboard originally designed for
use in a computer;

a first connection interface for use as a MIDI interface;
a second connection interface for connecting said keyboard directly to said electronic
musical instrument; and

a replacing device that replaces operation information input from said operation panel by
operation information input from said keyboard connected via said connection terminal and said
second connection interface.

3. (Twice Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
an operation panel that is operated by a user;
at least one connection terminal for connection with a keyboard originally designed for
use in a computer, said keyboard having a plurality of keys;
a first connection interface for use as a MIDI interface;
a second connection interface for connecting said keyboard directly to said electronic
musical instrument;
an assigning device that assigns functions that can be executed by operating said
operation panel respectively to the keys of said keyboard connected via said connection terminal
and said second connection interface; and
an execution device that is responsive to operation of any of the keys of said keyboard,
for executing one of said functions assigned to the operated key.

5. (Twice Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
an operation panel that is operated by a user;
at least one connection terminal for connection with a keyboard originally designed for
use in a computer, said keyboard having a plurality of types of keys;
a first connection interface for use as a MIDI interface;
a second connection interface for connecting said keyboard directly to said electronic
musical instrument;
an assigning device that assigns functions that can be executed by operating said
operation panel respectively to the types of keys of said keyboard connected via said connection
terminal and said second connection interface; and
an execution device that is responsive to operation of any of the types of keys of said
keyboard, for executing one of said functions assigned to the operated type of key.